

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W

----- 002373

O R 311000Z MAY 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO AMCONSUL TRIESTE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2968

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT YO

SUBJECT: SOVIET WALK-IN

1. A SOVIET CITIZEN MAY CONTACT CONSULATE DURING WEEKEND CLAIMING TO BE A POLITICAL REFUGEE. THE MAN, NIKOLAI IVANOVICH BLAGIKH, A 25 YEAR OLD TOUR LEADER, CAME TO THE EMBASSY EVENING OF MAY 30 ASKING FOR "HELP TO GO TO AMERICA". HE LEFT ABOUT 10:30 PM INTENDING TO TAKE TRAIN TO LJUBLJANA AND CROSS BORDER ILLEGALLY AT TRIESTE. HE STATED INTENTION OF CONTACTING CONSULATE.

2. BLAGIKH IS FROM VARONESH NEAR MOSCOW. HE WAS BORN JUNE 22, 1949 AT YAROSLAVL. HE WAS LEADER OF A GROUP OF 30 ON TOUR OF YUGOSLAVIA WHEN HE WALKED AWAY FROM HOTEL AND WONDERED CITY FOR SIX HOURS BEFORE APPROACHING EMBASSY.

3. EMBOFFS TOLD BLAGIKH THAT YUGOSLAVS WILL NOT PERMIT BLOC NATIONALS TO LEAVE YUGOSLAVIA ILLEGALLY FOR WEST AND SOME TIME WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE EMBASSY COULD SAY IF AND HOW IT COULD HELP HIM. HE DECIDED NOT TO WAIT, ACCEPTED SOME MONEY AND LEFT BY SIDE DOOR FOR TRAIN
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STATION. BLAGIKH WAS CONVINCED HIS ABSENCE HAD BEEN

DISCOVERED SHORTLY AFTER HE LEFT HOTEL AND SEARCH FOR HIM WAS STARTED.

4. WE ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT BLAGIKH'S CHANCES OF REACHING ITALY. JUST AFTER DUTY OFFICER ARRIVED AT EMBASSY TO TALK WITH BLAGIKH, A YUGOSLAV CAR "STALLED" IN FRONT OF EMBASSY AND TWO MEN WERE STILL TINKERING WITH THE MOTOR MORE THAN HOUR LATER WHEN DUTY OFFICER LEFT. MARINE GUARD SAW ONE OF MEN ACROSS STREET ABOUT MIDNIGHT.
SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLITICAL ASYLUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA02711
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750191-0316
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaaabr.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET WALK-IN
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, YO, UR, (BLAGIKH, NIKOLAI I)
To: TRIESTE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006